パズルプラス
PUZZLE+02
菅野マナミ
MANAMI SUGANO

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Cube.6 Continuation of a Dream

I
WANT TO KNOW
THE TRUTH
THE TRUTH?
...EH?
PODH...
I...

THIS IS ..?
...
RATTLE
I'LL BE GOING NOW!
!
HOW DID I GET OUTSIDE?
RIA-CHAN? THE TWINS AREN'T HERE EITHER.
EH EH?
WH...
WHERE IS THIS?!
?!

RIA-CHAN?!
SOMETHING IS STRANGE...
THAT'S...
?
NO CHAINS?

THIS HAP-PENED
"I WANT TO KNOW"
AT THAT TIME
PLOP
AM I SEEING THE RIA-CHAN FROM TWO YEARS AGO...?
NO WAY.
...
MORNING AINE-CHAN!

!!
SWIRL

AHH...
SO...
UM...
GAG...
ARGH!
...
THAT'S ACTUALLY HOW SHE SMILES.

HIIRO!
HM?
grin
?!
OKAY—
UGH!
DO SOME-THING!
SFX: DOHN

SFX KICKS
ガッ
ッ
HAH.
EH?!
?!
GU-
GUREN-KUN!
IT'S FINE! IT'S FINE!
He's not that weak.
BUT GUREN, IT'S YOUR UNLUCKY DAY
Ah ha ha!

WHY...?
Ummm?
BECAUSE GUREN ASKED ME TO DO IT
"STOP ME" HE SAID

STO—
PLEASE FORGIVE HIM, AS YOU CAN SEE HE'S APOLOGIZING
STOP IT STOP IT! GUREN-KUN IS NOT AT FAULT!
My UNCONSCIOUS

WHY?
HE SUDDENLY STRANGLED YOU, BUT YOU'RE SAYING IT'S NOT HIS FAULT? STRANGE
NOT AT FAULT?

!
CREEAk

SQUEAK....
...THAT'S BECOMING TROUBLESOME
BLINK
EH?
AS IF IT'S A DREAM.
NOW, IT'S A DIFFERENT PLACE...

?
RI...
P
U
L
L

...IS THIS
RIA-CHAN'S MEMORY ...?
AINE-CHAN!!

THAT GIRL WAS TOGETHER WITH RIA-CHAN...
SO IT WAS RIA-CHAN'S FRIEND WHO OPENED THE CUBE
WHY RIA-CHAN KEEPS SHUNNING OTHERS.
I SEE.
NOW I UNDER-STAND...

MIO-KUN!
ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?!
SHOOOOO
SFX: SLASH
WO
OSH...
SFX: STAGGER
...RIA-CHAN...

FALL
MIO-KUN?!
WAAH!
...
MIO-KUN USED THE POWER OF THE CUBE
...
RIA, WHAT ABOUT HIM?
SWOOSH
HMM?
HE'S LOOKING MUCH BETTER NOW.
YEAH
IT SEEMS HE'LL BE ALL RIGHT NOW

I WONDER IF THAT CAUSED IT?
I SEE.
IT LOOKED LIKE GUREN-KUN'S OBSESSION FOR THE BOX BECAME STRONG
THAT MIGHT HAVE CAUSED HIS CONDITION TO SUDDENLY GET SO BAD.
SEEMS LIKE HE DID
WHEN FOUR-EYES (GUREN) WAS IN POSSESSION OF THE BOX, ANOTHER PERSON (MIO) USED ITS POWER.
THIS IS THE FIRST CASE LIKE THAT
WHAT'S THAT?
RIA? ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?
IF HE USED THE BOX'S POWER,
THEN HE'LL FORGET ABOUT IT, ABOUT ITS USE
AND PERHAPS ABOUT ME AS WELL.
BECAUSE, NO MATTER WHAT, I AM UNABLE TO END MY CONNECTION WITH THE BOX.

UM...
SFX GETS UP
ガバッ
JOLTS
HUH?!
...?
?
AH
EH
HELLO... HOW DO YOU DO?
...
AH?

THEN, THE BOX? WHAT HAPPENED? RIA-CHAN!
EH?
HAH
OH YEAH, I WAS BY THAT BOX..

WHATEVER JUST MOVE AWAY.
CL
ONK

?
?
?
?
That's?

?
?
Ria-chan?
WHA... WHAT'S WRONG?

WHAT DO YOU THINK, MUGETSU?
...
WAS IT JUST A COINCIDENCE ? NO
HE REGAINED CONSCIOUSNESS RATHER QUICKLY
AND THE OTHER ONE IS STILL UNCONSCIOUS OVER THERE
I GUESS IT DOESN'T HAVE ANYTHING TO DO WITH THE FREQUENCY OR THE POWER USED
IT'S HARD TO THINK IT'S ANOTHER COINCIDENCE THAT HIS MEMORY REMAINED
WH—
WHY DOES MIO-KUN REMEMBER?
DIDN'T YOU USE THE POWER OF THE BOX?

BUT IT WAS DIFFERENT FROM WHEN I USED THE BOX BEFORE
THAT? COME TO THINK OF IT
HEY, YOU BRAT OVER THERE
MIO-KUN?
What's wrong?
THAT WAS
MY MEMORY ISN'T VAGUE
IN FACT, I STILL REMEMBER THAT "DREAM" I SAW EARLIER
WOULD YOU LIKE ME TO EXPLAIN?
YES?
I mean, why are you here?
?
I'LL LET YOU CHOOSE
MAKE YOUR DECISION
IT'S GOOD IF YOU DON'T WANT TO GET INVOLVED ANYMORE
IT'S BETTER IF YOU DON'T KNOW ANY FURTHER

Say...
HIIRO-KUN
...
I'LL BE GOING BACK NOW
Hmm
He's so hopeless!
He's not growing up
MUGETSU-SAN?
?

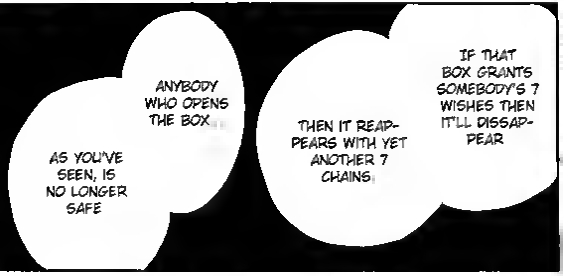
TO BE HONEST, I WAS SCARED THAT YOU WOULD ACTUALLY KILL GUREN
I WANT TO APOLOGIZE FOR NOT SAVING YOU IMMEDIATELY EARLIER
!
GUESS I WAS PUZZLED
...

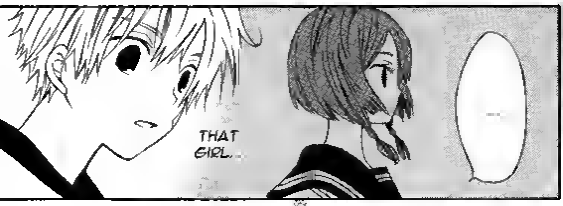
IT'S TRUE THAT GUREN HAD TO GO THROUGH A LOT BECAUSE OF THAT STRANGE BOX.
BUT I FEEL IT'S NOT WORTH GETTING INVOLVED.
I GUESS IT DOESN'T MATTER TO ME HOW EVERYTHING ELSE TURNS OUT.
SO,
ANYWAY, LET'S JUST SAY THOSE THINGS NEVER HAPPENED.
...Was I worried for nothing?
WHAT CARELESSNESS!
SFX BAMM
パターン
DRAG
DRAG
THEREFORE, I'LL BE HEADING BACK
See you then
I WONDER IF I SHOULD HELP?
Oppie daisi
poor Guren kun
I JUST WANT RIA-SAN TO STAY AS THE CUTE GIRL IN THE APARTMENT ABOVE OURS.
BEAM

SO?

I
WON'T BACK OUT.

I KNOW WHAT HAPPENED
..2 YEARS AGO.


AS YOU'VE SEEN, IS NO LONGER SAFE
ANYBODY WHO OPENS THE BOX...
THEN IT REAPPEARS WITH YET ANOTHER 7 CHAINS.
IF THAT BOX GRANTS SOMEBODY'S 7 WISHES THEN IT'LL DISSAPPEAR


THAT GIRL...
...

AHH, SO THAT'S WHAT YOU USED THE BOX'S POWER FOR.
I SEE.
...

THEN THE PERSON WHO USED THE BOX WILL ONLY LOSE THEIR MEMORY ABOUT IT.
IF IT'S BROKEN BEFORE ALL THE CHAINS ARE UNFASTENED,
SO THE REASON RIA-CHAN DESTROYING THE BOX WITH THAT SWORD...

RIA HAS BEEN CHASING THE BOX TO DESTROY IT
THAT'S WHY, FOR THE PAST TWO YEARS
WE STILL DON'T KNOW THE METHOD TO COMPLETELY ERASE IT.
EVEN AFTER BREAKING IT, THE BOX DISAPPEARS ONLY TO REAPPEAR WITH ANOTHER 7 CHAINS

IS IT... BECAUSE OF THOSE CHAINS?
...
THERE WERE NO CHAINS ON THE BOX EARLIER.
BUT WHY...?
I'M THE REASON FOR IT
...I THREW THAT BOX AWAY
THAT'S WHY, AT THAT TIME IT BROKE
IT'S ALSO MY FAULT THAT THE CHAINS APPEARED.
THAT'S WHY
AINE-CHAN'S DEATH IS ALSO BECAUSE OF...
?

RIA-CHAN? WHAT'S WRONG?
IT'S NOTHING...
EH
AH... YES... IT DID FEEL QUITE FRAG-MENTED
...WHAT YOU SAW WAS MERELY A PART OF THAT "2 YEARS AGO"
RIA'S TIME SINCE 2 YEARS AGO HASN'T MOVED ON AT ALL
HMM
WELL THEN, SHALL I TELL YOU WHAT HAPPENED "AFTER THAT"?
...HUH?

...WHEN WE STARTED LIVING IN THAT APARTMENT, RIA NEVER SMILED
SHE NEITHER CRIED NOR GOT ANGRY,
SHE ALWAYS STAYED IN HER ROOM SPACING OUT, EXCEPT WHEN DESTROYING THE BOX
?
IT WAS
AFTER ABOUT A MONTH THAT SHE SUDDENLY COLLAPSED
EH...?
WHEN WE ASKED HER, WE FOUND OUT THAT FOR NEARLY A MONTH
SHE NEITHER ATE ANYTHING NOR DRANK NOR SLEPT A WINK
WH...

WHAT ARE YOU SAYING?
BUT THAT'S THE FACT.
IT CAN'T BE FOR THAT LONG...
IN OTHER WORDS...
RIA RIGHT NOW IS HALF ALIVE AND HALF DEAD.
RIA-CHAN? ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?
YOU LOOK RATHER
I--
REGARDLESS OF WHAT KIND OF EMOTIONS THEY ARE, WITH TIME THEY'LL CHANGE
THEY WILL EVENTUALLY FADE AWAY

YOU CAN'T GO ON LIVING IF THEY REMAIN THE SAME
WHAT DO YOU MEAN?
IT SEEMS THAT RIA'S TIME HAS ALMOST COMPLETELY STOPPED
IN OTHER WORDS, HER EXISTENCE CAME TO A HALT
BECAUSE SHE'S ALIVE, SHE CAN DEVELOP NEW FEELINGS.
BUT THOSE EMOTIONS FROM TWO YEARS AGO WILL NEVER VANISH FROM HER

FOR RIA, THAT INCIDENT IS STILL NOT A "PAST."

—— THE FEELINGS
FROM 2 YEARS AGO
WHEN SHE LOST HER FRIEND
STILL LINGER...

SO THAT'S HOW IT IS.
AH, NOW I GET IT.
I WONDER
WHAT KIND OF FEELINGS THOSE WERE.
TICK
EVEN I DON'T UNDERSTAND, BUT...
...
YEAH!
...LE—
LET'S GO BACK.

I UNDERSTOOD VARIOUS THINGS ABOUT THE BOX
AND ABOUT RIA-CHAN'S SITUATION AND ALSO ABOUT MYSELF
MIO-KUN?
WELL, I MEAN
FROM THAT WISH EARLIER TO KNOW WHAT HAPPENED "2 YEARS AGO"
WHAT LEFT THE STRONGEST IMPRESSION ON ME WAS PERHAPS...
?
HER ACTUAL SMILE
LOOKING BACK AT IT, I NOW FEEL
blushh
Mio-kun!
?
?
SOOO EMBARRASSED~
NOW
HOW WILL THINGS TURN OUT?

パズルプラス02

PUZZLE+

MANAMI SUGANO

菅野マナミ

PUZZLE+

VOL CHAPTER 06

Scanner: littlepinkrose12
Translator: junaidak9 &
hanchakachan
Proofreader: iamdea
Editor: Windy &
Sushyisama
QCer: littlepinkrose12

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HOW ARE YOU HOLDING UP??
I KNOW YOU ARE IN NEED OF A MANGA FIX, BUT
Whoa! Don't vaporize out of despair!
THERE AREN'T ANY NEW RELEASES
THERE IS STILL HOPE. IT'S NOT THAT ESTHETIQUE DOESN'T HAVE MANGA,
ESTHETIQUE JUST NEEDS MORE TRANSLATORS AND EDITORS TO WORK ON THEIR AWESOME PROJECTS.
What?! Then let's hurry up and recruit more staff!
Temporarily revived
I NEED NEW RELEASES TO SHOW OFF MY USUALLY SUAVE SELF!

These projects need Japanese Translators!

e-mail esthetiquestaff@gmail.com
with the title you're interested in
if you think you can help!

P.S. At this time, we do not need any more:
Chinese Translators
Korean translators
English proofreaders

Thank you for your interest!
Summer 2009

Cube.7
In Suzuna's Case.

MIO...
WHAT HAPPENED TO YOUR HEAD?
THIS...
THIS IS...
BAM!
!
THUD
THUD
THUD
RUI-SAAAAAAN!
ARGH!
AH
THIS IS SUZU'S DOING...
BONK

YESTERDAY...
HEY, IT'S RUI-SAN.
BANG!
STOP FIGHTING.
I DON'T WANT SOMETHING LIKE YESTERDAY TO HAPPEN AGAIN.
YOU'RE BEAUTIFUL, AS ALWAYS~
Stop following me around
Jab
YES, YES.
THESE TWO HAD A FIGHT YESTERDAY
THEY WENT OVERBOARD, AND GUREN-ONIICHAN COLLAPSED
HIIRO-ONIICHAN HAD TO BRING HIM BACK TO THE APARTMENT WITH THE HELP OF KIRA-ONEECHAN WHO HAPPENED TO PASS BY
Ah, Rui-san, Suzu-chan
?!

IT'S NOT A HAPPY ENDING
HAPPILY EVER AFTER
THAT'S THE REASON WHY GUREN-ONIICHAN LOST HIS MEMORY ABOUT WHAT HAPPENED YESTERDAY.
BUT, I STILL REMEMBER THAT I WENT TO A LIBRARY
.....
AH.
?!
Heartbeat
SO... THAT'S WHAT HAPPENED.
smile

HONESTLY, IT'S KIND OF HARD TO BELIEVE WHAT HAPPENED YESTERDAY.
BLUSH...
, IT'S NOT A LIE, IS IT?
OH, YOU'RE ATTRACTED?
WHICH ONE?
HUH?
RIA-ONEECHAN AND KIRA-ONEECHAN WHICH ONE OF THEM ATTRACTS YOU?
A... ATTRACTED
SUZUNA WANTS TO BE LIKE KIRA-ONEECHAN.
I'm not asking.

HMPH
I WANT IT NOW!
WHY?
IN OTHER WORDS, I WANT TO HAVE A "NICE BODY" AS HER
IS THAT SO...?
WELL, I THINK YOU CAN'T DO ANYTHING ABOUT IT RIGHT NOW
But, Kira-oneechan is pretty too
SUZUNA HAS THESE CLOTHES SHE WANTS TO WEAR
BUT, IN SUZUNA'S BODY RIGHT NOW, IT'S USELESS
dash
I SHOULD ESCAPE..
NO, THAT'S NOT IT. I WANT TO BECOME KIRA-ONEECHAN!
THAT'S WHY SUZUNA WANTS TO BE LIKE KIRA-ONEECHAN
clang
clang

...OH.
AH.
shines
IT'S ALL RIGHT.
IT WILL ALL BE OVER IN A BIT.

AH.
RUN
Fwoosh
Tremble
Tremble
TCH!
RUSTLE!
WHAT IS THIS?
HM?

202
rustle
clatter
clatter
……

SHOULD I SAY SOMETHING?
This kind of feels awkward
I'M TELLING YOU ONE THING.
HUH?
YES... YES.
YESTERDAY,
THE REASON WHY YOU DIDN'T LOSE YOUR MEMORY DESPITE USING THE BOX
AH,
SO GUREN DIDN'T REMEMBER ANYTHING AS WELL?
THAT'S NORMAL.
DO YOU...
...KNOW THE REASON?

.. SOMEHOW IT FEELS LIKE THEY'RE STUCK SOMEWHERE.

THE WORDS HE JUST SAID ..

KYAHHHHH!!
?!
WHAT— WHAT WAS THAT JUST NOW?!
It's coming from the back of the apartment
THE VOICE JUST NOW—
NO WAY.
THIS MUST BE...

shock
Rustle
HUH?
.. KIRA ..?
YOU... WHAT'S WITH YOUR COSTUME..?
drawn back
STUNNED
KIRA..?

I REALLY BECAME KIRA-ONEE-CHAN
JUST AS I THOUGHT!
HUH
?
THIS IS GREAT! I CAN'T JUST STAY HERE!
dash
WA—
WAIT, WHERE DO YOU THINK YOU'RE GOING?!
AND WHAT'S WITH THAT OUTFIT, ANYWAY?!
?!
ARE YOU GOING OUT IN THAT OUTFIT...
?!
welling up

MIO-KUN, YOU'RE HERE, TOO. WHAT ARE YOU DOING THERE?
HE SCOLDED ME
drop
drop
?
?
?
?
She's crying
rattle
MUGETSU?
?
...OH?

...KIRA-SAN IS...
TWO?
OH, NO...
AH.
She's past!
dash
RUN
AHHHH!!
BOX!!
...AH...

SHE HAS THE BOX!!
WHAT?!
tap
tap
tap
RIA!!
Click
...TCH
Boom
thump
crash
OUCH!
I GET IT GIVE ME ONE SEC
GRAB
YOU, MOVE!!
EH,
chill

land
RI-...!
..ITS.. PERFECT LANDING
It's impossible!
It's impossible!
unharmed
I'M GOING!
?!

WA—
WAIT! WAIT A MINUTE, RIA-CHAN!
SQUEEZE
YOU'RE GOING OUT IN THOSE CLOTHES?!
hug!
HE'S RIGHT!
IT'LL BE A BIG PROBLEM IF YOU CATCH A COLD!
?!
hug
SHE'S THE REAL KIRA
THEN, WHO WAS THE KIRA, EARLIER?
—AH.

pant
...THERE'S NO ONE AFTER ME
MAYBE...
MAYBE SHE'S SUZUNA-CHAN
huff
huff
PIIIIN
UGH.
IT'S OBVIOUS BUT MY CLOTHES ARE SO SMALL.
YES, THIS IS IT!
NOW IS MY CHANCE!

Step
Step Step
I'M GOING!
IS THAT SO? SUZUNA-CHAN WAS SAYING SUCH THINGS...
OH, DEAR...
runs
SHE CHANGED INTO THAT KIND OF CLOTHING...
SO
GO AHEAD
.....
AREN'T YOU GOING AFTER HER?

BOWS
ERR. YES, I'M GOING.
YES, SURE. GO AHEAD.
COMPLICATED?
WHAT IS?
HUHU
.....
EVEN IF WE WANT TO GO AFTER THEM,
WE'RE NOT THE KIND OF PEOPLE WHO CAN SAVE THAT KID.
step
step
step

Waaaaaahh
STOP
!
MIO-KUN?!
A-ARE YOU OK?
PULL
UWeh
YEAH
JUST THAT I CAN'T BREATHE RELEASE ME.
YOU'RE AMAZING YOU CAN RUN ON A THIN WALL LIKE THIS
.....
ah

DID YOU FOLLOW ME?
WHY..
HUH...
IT'S LIKE SHE'S GOING TO SAY "This doesn't involve you, go home"
BECAUSE WE'RE FRIENDS... IT'S CALLED BEING CONCERNED, RIGHT?
Wh—
WHY IS IT..?
WELL, UMM..

SHE SHOULD BE SOMEWHERE HERE
SH—
OH
YOU THINK SO?
HMM
HM?
IS THAT SO?
MIO-KUN?

HM?
THAT...
THE CLOTHES SUZUNA-CHAN WANTS TO WEAR IS...
drawn back
Bunny-san...

WHY DID SHE WANT TO WEAR THAT OUTFIT ...?
WH——
murmur murmur
EVERYBODY'S LOOKING AT HER
OF COURSE THEY WILL.
IF SHE HAS THE BOX...
SHE WILL DEFINITELY COME TO ME
dush
RIA-CHAN?
WHERE ARE YOU GOING?
THIS AREA IS TOO CROWDED, SO...
WE WILL AMBUSH HER AT A PLACE PEOPLE DON'T GO
AMBUSH?

!
Poka
... WHAT?
I SMELL SOMETHING FISHY ABOUT THIS.
She's going into the alley...
WHAT IS THIS?
.....
murmur
murmur

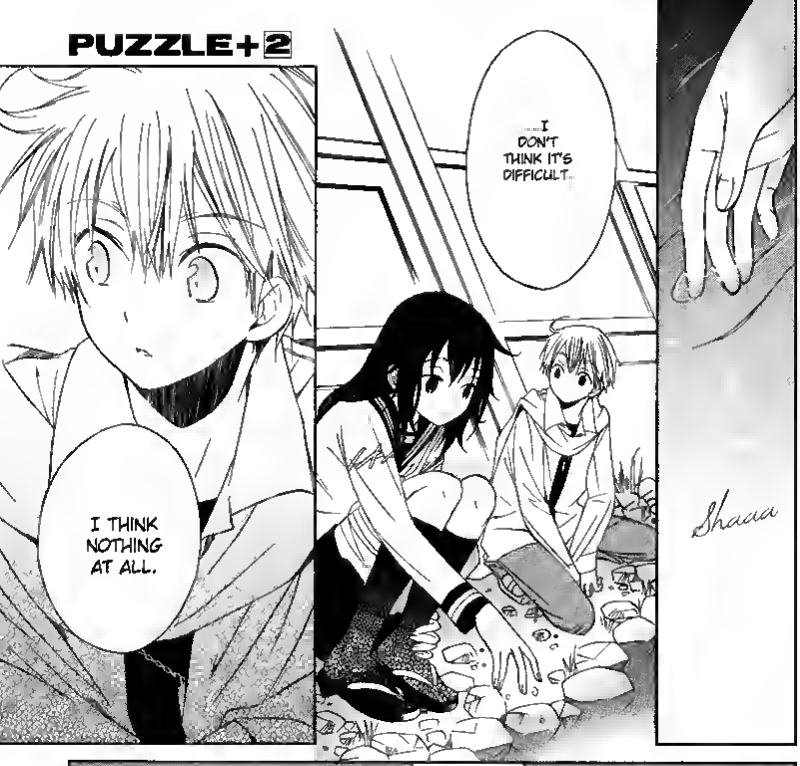
BUT, AS IF I DON'T WANT TO GO
AS IF I NEED TO GO TO THIS PATH
DOES RIA-CHAN NOT THINK IT'S DIFFICULT?
?
THE REASON YOU QUIT SCHOOL IS BECAUSE YOU NEED TO DESTROY THAT BOX, RIGHT?
ON TOP OF THAT....
YOU HAVE SO MANY WOUNDS

.....

stare
.....

?
YOUR WOUND HAS HEALED
The one on your cheek

blush
THAT'S GOOD
AH... YEAH


I THINK NOTHING AT ALL.
...I DON'T THINK IT'S DIFFICULT.
Shaaa

I'VE BECOME UNABLE TO UNDERSTAND MY OWN FEELINGS
MY SENSES HAVE BECOME NUMB... I DON'T KNOW HOW I FEEL.
FUN OR BORING..
LIKE, HAPPY OR SAD.

THE ONLY THING I KNOW
IS THAT I HAVE TO DESTROY THE BOX
THAT IS...
*Ominous Feelings
YOU ARE LYING
RI...
SHH...
LOOKS LIKE SUZUNA-CHAN IS HERE
rustle
NOT TRUE
Y-YUP.

AH? IT'S NOT A BUNNY!
Disappointed!
Surprised
?!
Eh?!
RIA-ONEE-CHAN...?
I'VE SEEN THOSE CLOTHES BEFORE IT'S HER... DEFINITELY.
SHE FOUND US.
OOPS!
Ah, uh
M a shimobi

IT'S REALLY YOU, SUZUNA-CHAN
.....SO.
SULLEN
.....
FURY!!
IF YOU'RE GOING TO STOP ME,
I WON'T GO EASY ON YOU!!
I REALLY LIKE YOU ONEE-CHAN
BUT NOW WE ARE ENEMIES... THERE'S NO HELPING IT...
?
WHA-
WHAT TO DO?

PUZZLE+

VOL CHAPTER 07

Scanner: littlepinkrose12
Translator: Joy + Junaid
Proofreader: love
Translation Reviewer: hanchakachan
Editor: Sushiisama
QCer:littlepinkrose12

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Cube.8 night

.....
ERR..
She's glaring at us...
KIRA-SA—
I MEAN, SUZUNA-CHAN, UMM
Hah!
Eeeeek!!
?

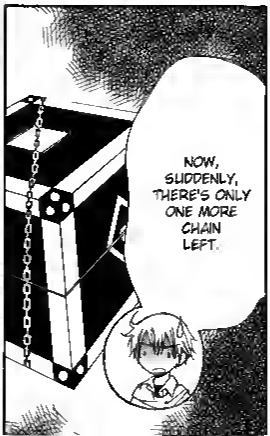
HAS ALWAYS WANTED TO FLY IN THE SKY ON A BROOM!
B—an!
SUZUNA...
?
Lifelong wish?
HOW COULD THIS HAPPEN...? I WAS OBLIVIOUS.
NOW... I CAN REALIZE MY LIFELONG WISH.

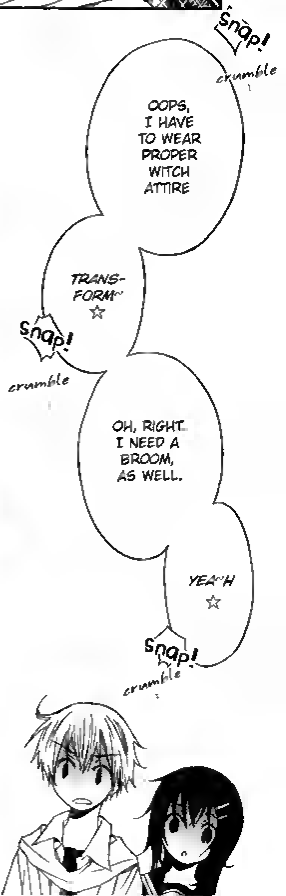
SILENCE
WHY DO I HAVE A FEELING KIA WANTS TO SEE IT?
?!
A WITCH GIRL—

SUZUNA-CHAN, ARE YOU PLANNING TO BECOME A WITCH GIRL IN KIRA-SAN'S BODY?
.....
YOU'RE RIGHT. WELL, IT'S A SHAME, BUT LET'S CHANGE BACK TO MY OWN BODY.

.....

WA--
WAIT! WAIT UP, SUZUNA-CHAN!
YES?
wahhh


NOW, SUDDENLY, THERE'S ONLY ONE MORE CHAIN LEFT.


snap!
crumble
OOPS, I HAVE TO WEAR PROPER WITCH ATTIRE
TRANS-FORM☆
snap!
crumble
OH, RIGHT. I NEED A BROOM, AS WELL.
YEA~H☆
snap!
crumble

EVEN IF IT DOESN'T AFFECT ME,
THERE'S A CHANCE THAT SUZUNA-CHAN COULD GET HURT WE CAN'T LET THAT HAPPEN
THAT IS BUT...
HEY, WHY DON'T YOU JUST TAKE THE BOX AWAY FROM HER?
THE BOX'S POWER HAS NO EFFECT ON YOU, DOES IT? THEN IT SHOULD BE EASY...
B— BUT...
whisper
Sheesh!
What are you two whispering about?
BUT, THERE IS ONLY ONE CHAIN LEFT.
...AH.

RI—
AH!
MORE IMPORTANTLY...
WOW!
SU—SUZUNA-CHAN!
float
snap

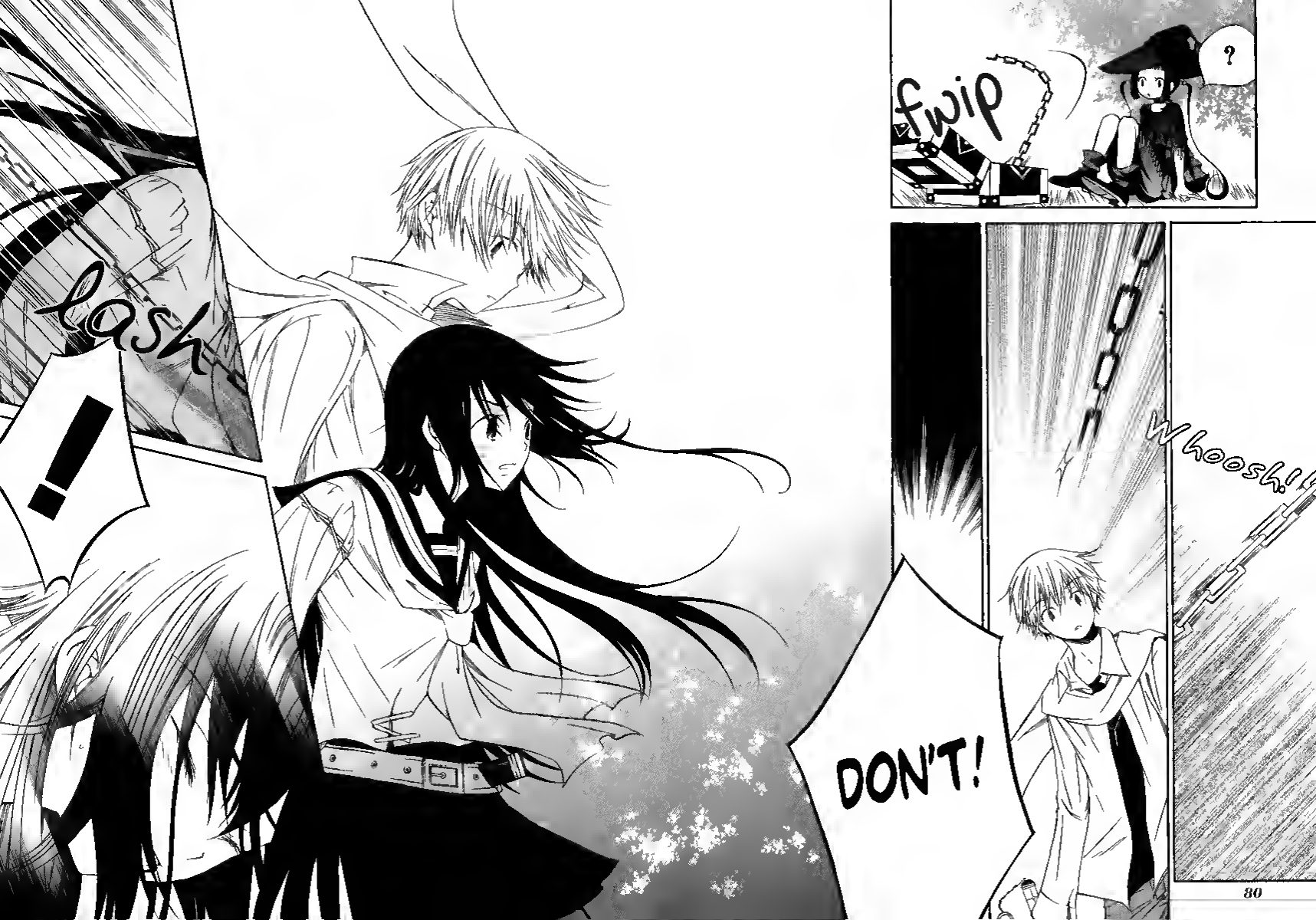
OUCH
EH?
YELP!
SUZUNA-CHAN!!
OH?
wobble...
THE BOX IS...
creak...
THUMP!

CLANG
AAAAAAAAAAAAHH!!
!
RIA-CHAN?

NO...
DON'T..
DON'T COME BACK... I DON'T NEED THESE FEELINGS!
RI—
WHAT...
IS THAT?
CREEP...

THE CHAIN...!
.....
IF THE BOX IS NOT DESTROYED, SUZUNA-CHAN WILL BE
THIS IS... GETTING DANGEROUS, ISN'T IT?

clench
dash
I'M BORROWING YOUR SWORD
snatch
WAI...


fwip
?
Whoosh!
DON'T!
lash
!

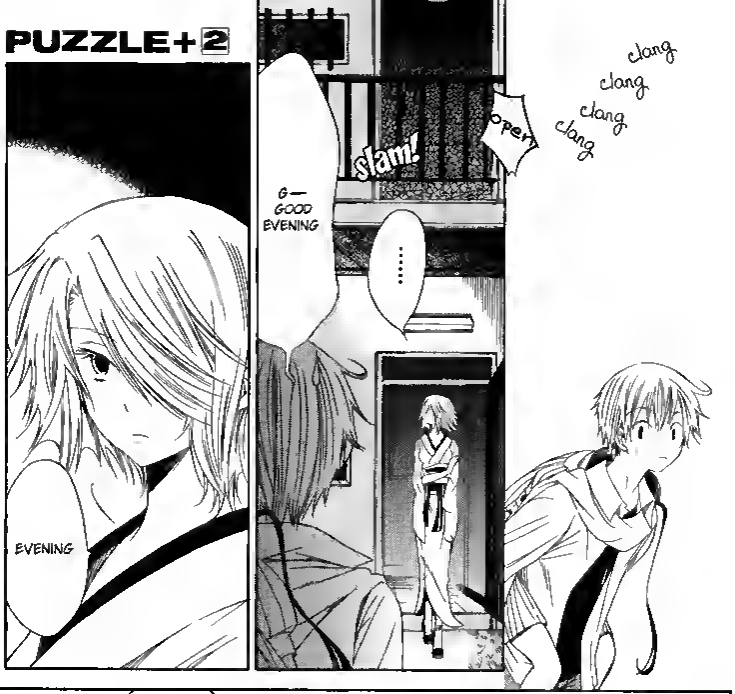
BURST
RIA-CHAN!
TCH!
Freeze
stab
pAaw
IT...
IT DISAP-PEARED.
WHOOSH

zzz
SUZUNA-CHAN!
!
So, the box does break easily
SEEMS LIKE SHE'S ASLEEP.
THANK GOODNESS...
stab
OUCH!
AR—
ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?
HER INJURY...
waking up
...UGH...

RI—
I'M FINE.
I'M FINE, SO...
WAS I MISTAKEN?
JUST BECAUSE SHE SEEMS RECKLESS,
THAT DOESN'T MEAN THAT SHE'D LOOK LIKE NOTHING HAD HAPPENED WHEN SHE IS HURT, DOES IT?

...THIS CAN'T GO ON.
AN ORDINARY GIRL, BUT...
SO, SHE'S JUST AN ORDINARY GIRL.
step
CAN YOU WALK?

.....
step
step
step
WHAT SHOULD WE DO WITH SUZUHA-CHAN?
WHO DOES SHE LIVE WITH?
click
?!
creak
OH, YES...
.....
...um...


clang
clang
clang
clang
open
slam!
G— GOOD EVENING
……
EVENING

SU-SUZUNA-CHAN WAS... UMM...
She's
SUZU LIVES WITH HER DAD,
BUT USUALLY HE COMES HOME LATE FROM WORK. I'LL MIND HER

stare ——————…
……
OK SORRY FOR TROUBLING YOU

NO NEED TO WORRY. I WON'T INTERROGATE YOU ABOUT RIA.
Ba-thump
P-
PARDON ME?
Why are you suddenly talking about this?
THAT GIRL IS GOOD AT DISTANCING HERSELF FROM OTHERS
WHY SHE SEEMS TO TREAT YOU DIFFERENTLY FROM OTHERS
FOR EVERY STEP YOU TAKE TOWARD HER, SHE TAKES ONE STEP BACK.
NOT TOO CLOSE, YET NOT TOO FAR.
THOUGH, I CAN'T HELP BUT WONDER

stare
I really wonder why
?
um
MAYBE YOU CAN'T TELL,
BUT, FOR SOMEONE WHO HAS BEEN WATCHING HER, IT'S EASY TO TELL. SHE'S SUCH AN HONEST KID
?!
turns around
WELL, ANYHOW.
IF YOU REACH OUT YOUR HAND, SHE'S THERE, SOMEWHERE YOU CAN REACH.
door closes
.....
201
DO YOUR BEST, YOUNG MAN.

.....
...SIGH.
WAHH!
HM?

opens window
WHAT'S THAT? I THOUGHT I HEARD SOMETHING FROM OUTSIDE THE WINDOW
?!
WHA-WHA-WHA—
WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
OH, YOU SEE...
YOU..
YOU SURPRISED ME. I THOUGHT YOU WERE ASLEEP

RIA-CHAN?
I'VE COME TO APOLOGIZE ABOUT WHAT HAPPENED EARLIER
WAIT!
WHY ARE YOU CARRYING THIS CONVERSATION LIKE IT'S NORMAL?!
?
THIS IS THE SECOND FLOOR, YOU KNOW?
YEP.
THIS IS DANGEROUS, SO...
!

YOUR ARM IS IT ALL RIGHT?
I'M SO SORRY IT'S ALL BECAUSE I INTERFERED...
?!
W-WHY DO YOU HAVE TO APOLOGIZE, MIO-KUN?
YOU GOT IT WRONG
THAT WAS BECAUSE I
BECAUSE I REMEMBERED SOMETHING THAT HAPPENED TWO YEARS AGO.
Is
IS THIS YOUR HOMEWORK? CAN I SEE IT?
SURE

SHE'S SAYING THAT IT WAS TWO YEARS AGO...
BUT, IT DOESN'T SEEM TO ME LIKE IT'S TWO YEARS TO HER
.....
MIO-KUN
YES?
AND THE CALCULATIONS HERE, AND HERE, AND HERE...
SNATCH!
.....
THIS ONE IS WRONG.

OH, YEAH WHEN THE BOX FINALLY DISAPPEARS,
YOU CAN ATTEND THE SAME SCHOOL I'M ATTENDING.
It's pretty close there
.....
THE BOX WILL NEVER DISAPPEAR
WHY?
I'M SURE THERE IS A WAY
.....
YOU WOULD WANT IT TO DISAPPEAR, TOO. AM I RIGHT?

I...
I'M OK WITH IT.
.....
I'M NOT OK!
WHY DO YOU HAVE TO SUSTAIN ALL THOSE INJURIES IN ORDER TO DESTROY THE BOX?
THAT IS BECAUSE I'M THE ONLY PERSON WHO CAN DO IT
...Eh?

BECAUSE IT IS MY FAULT.
RIA-CHAN, ARE YOU REALLY SURE THAT YOU'RE FINE
WITH DESTROYING THE BOX AND REPEATING IT OVER AND OVER FOR THE REST OF YOUR LIFE?
I AM!

BUT IT WON'T DISAPPEAR JUST BY WISHING FOR IT TO GO AWAY.
THAT'S WHY THE BOX WILL NEVER DISAPPEAR.
.....
.....?
I'M JUST ASKING.
OK, THEN.
WHAT DO YOU WISH FOR?

.....
I WISH FOR TIME TO REWIND.
IF I DIDN'T THROW AWAY THE BOX,
IT WOULDN'T HAVE FALLEN INTO AINE-CHAN'S HANDS.

WHY?
BECAUSE
WHY DID YOU THROW THE BOX AWAY?
IS STILL TRAPPED IN THE TIME THAT HAD STOPPED TICKING TWO YEARS AGO
RIA-CHAN
.....
.....
INSIDE THE STAGNANT TIME,
SHE KEEPS BLAMING HERSELF FOR CAUSING THE DEATH OF HER GOOD FRIEND.
MAYBE...

...FOR RIA-CHAN, DESTROYING THE BOX IS A WAY TO MAKE UP...
I DON'T WANT MY FRIEND TO BE HURT.
I FEEL THE SAME WAY YOU DO.
EH?

THAT'S WHY I WANT THE BOX TO STOP EXISTING.
.....
SO THAT YOU DON'T HAVE TO DESTROY IT ANYMORE.
THEN... HERE.
I don't know how to define our relationship
UM...
I CAN BE YOUR FRIEND, CAN'T I?
EH?
WHAT?
HAH!
.....

SHAKE HANDS AS A SIGN OF FRIENDSHIP
? ?
NO— NO ONE REALLY DOES THAT, YOU KNOW?
Embarrassed
JUST SHAKE HANDS ALREADY!
"Ria-chan,"
REALLY?
IS THAT REALLY HOW I FEEL?
are you really sure that you're fine with destroying the box and repeating it over and over for the rest of your life?
"I AM!"

THE TRUTH IS...
...THANK YOU.

PUZZLE+

VOL CHAPTER 08

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Translator: hanchakachan
Proofreader: love
Editor: Sushyisama
QCer: littlepinkrose12

Special Thanks to shekyl

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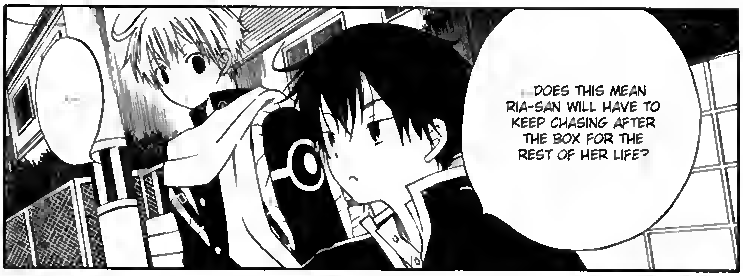
Cube.9 The Voice Calling

HELLO
HELLO

WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
I'M WAITING
STEP
STEP
UMM...
ARE YOU IN A HURRY, MIO-KUN?
OH, HIIRO.
I MADE A PROMISE TO RIA-CHAN, SO...
HM? HIIRO, ARE YOU ALONE?
Where's Gurin?
OVER THERE.

SUZUNA SAYS THAT SHE CAN'T REALLY RECALL WHAT HAPPENED YESTERDAY
SOUNDS LIKE THE SAME THING GUREN SAID BEFORE
SUZUNA-CHAN... IS SHE ALL RIGHT? YESTERDAY...
BY THE WAY, MIO-KUN,
AH
YOU THINK IT HAS ANYTHING TO DO WITH THE BOX?
BY THE WAY...
SPEAKING OF WHICH, DOES THIS GUY REMEMBER ABOUT THE BOX?
Yes?
Umm


...DOES THIS MEAN RIA-SAN WILL HAVE TO KEEP CHASING AFTER THE BOX FOR THE REST OF HER LIFE?

YESTERDAY, I MADE A PROMISE TO HER
THAT I'LL HELP HER THINK OF A WAY TO VANQUISH THE BOX
WE DON'T WANT TO STAY LIKE THIS FOREVER.

Stands
HEY
THAT'S WHY I HAVE TO HURRY HOME!
WAIT!
HUH?
KIDDING
YOU'RE QUITE A GOOD GUY...
I CAN UNDERSTAND WHY RIA-SAN OPENED UP HER HEART TO YOU...
AH,
WELL DO YOUR BEST, MIO-KUN.
Later

WELCOME BACK!
RIA-CHAN
I'M HO—
—ME
?
...?
A-AH SO IT'S TURNING OUT JUST LIKE WHAT KIRA SAID
EH?

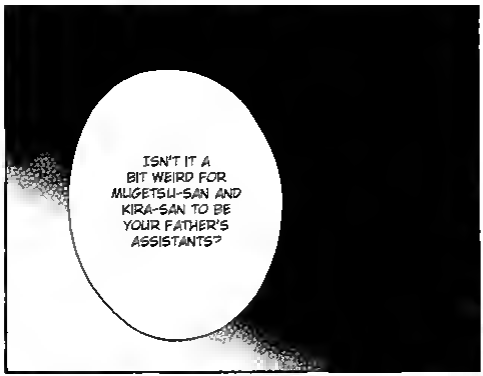
MUGETSU-SAN?
Open

Close
...?
GRANDMA GAVE IT TO ME 2 YEARS AGO. SHE SAID IT WAS A PRESENT FOR ME.
IT SEEMS LIKE THE BOX WAS CREATED BY MY FATHER,
BUT I DON'T KNOW THE DETAILS.
THEY PASSED AWAY EVEN BEFORE I TURNED 1.
IT MADE ME WONDER WHY ONLY THEN...

BEFORE YOU TURNED 1?
THEY WERE GONE WHEN YOU WERE THAT YOUNG?
I HAVE NO MEMORIES OF MY FATHER.
I DON'T REMEMBER HIM IT'S ALMOST THE SAME LIKE I HAVE NEVER MET HIM
THEN BECAUSE I THREW AWAY THE BOX AINE-CHAN DIED
I MET MUGETSU-SAN AND KIRA-SAN ABOUT THE SAME TIME
...
THEY EPLAINED TO ME ABOUT THE CUBE
WHEN I SAID THAT I'LL DESTROY THE CUBE THEY HANDED ME THE SWORD
SINCE THEN, I LEFT HOME AND CAME HERE TO LIVE IN THIS APARTMENT WITH THEM

DID YOU SAY YOU ARE 18 YEARS OLD?
YES

MIO-KUN?

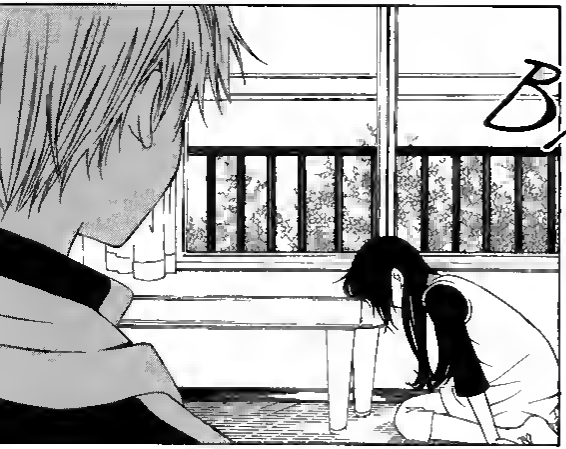

ISN'T IT A BIT WEIRD FOR MUGETSU-SAN AND KIRA-SAN TO BE YOUR FATHER'S ASSISTANTS?

SO THAT MAKES YOUR FATHER'S DEATH
ABOUT 17 YEARS AGO
?
THAT'S RIGHT

Puzzled
ASSISTANTS?

THEY NEVER TOLD ME,
THAT THEY WERE HIS ASSISTANTS
THAT'S WHAT THEY SAID,
BUT THEY MUST'VE BEEN KIDS 17 YEARS AGO.
They look like they're in their 40s now.
THEN. HAVE YOU EVER WONDERED WHY THEY KNEW SO MUCH ABOUT THE BOX?
NOW THAT YOU'VE MENTIONED IT, THAT'S QUITE TRUE
WHAT?
"NOW THAT I'VE MENTIONED IT"?
Any normal person would've been suspicious from the beginning

Sleepy
BACK THEN...
ALL I COULD THINK ABOUT WAS TO DESTROY THE BOX...
RIA-CHAN?
Dozing Away
Click
AH...
I BELIEVE YOU HAVE THINGS YOU WANT TO ASK?
YOU GUYS ARE...


BANG

?
THAT HURTS.
GULP
WHAT ARE YOU DOING?

I DON'T KNOW WHY... I'M FEEL-ING VERY SLEEPY...
I'VE ALREADY SLEPT A LOT RECENTLY...
Falls...
RU-CHAN?!

SHE'S JUST SLEEPING
WHAT?
SHE MUST BE TRYING TO RETURN

?!
GLARE
I'LL TELL YOU EVERY-THING
WHY DID YOU LIE AND SAY THAT YOU WERE HIS "ASSISTANTS"?

BUT...
IT WAS TRUE THAT KIRA WAS THE "PROFESSOR'S" ASSISTANT
AND...
"PROFESSOR YUIGAKI" WAS ME
HUH?

ANYBODY THERE?
WHERE IS THIS...?
IT'S SO WHITE... I CAN'T SEE ANYTHING.

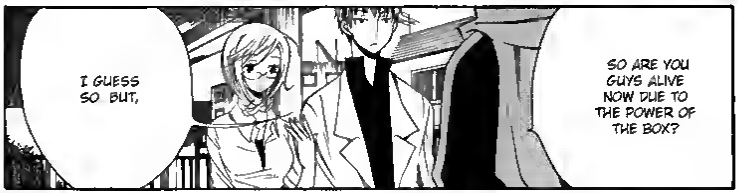
THAT'S ME.
...ME?
BUT I DON'T KNOW WHY I'M CRYING...
IT'S ME,
WHY ARE YOU CRYING?
[Sfx Wind Blowing]
ZAHHHH
!

THIS IS MY ROOM
BUT, THAT IS...
ME FROM TWO YEARS AGO...
PROFESSOR YUIGAKI?

THE ONE...
THAT CREATED THE BOX...
RIA-CHAN'S FATHER?
SO YOUNG?!
Shut up
I... WE WERE DEAD ONCE
BUT, BUT... I MEAN, YOU'RE TOO YOUNG TO BE HER FATHER.
NO, THAT'S NOT WHAT I MEANT
RIA-CHAN'S FATHER IS SUPPOSED TO BE DEAD...
THAT'S RIGHT...
?

THAT WAS JUST BEFORE RIA'S FIRST BIRTHDAY
I DON'T REALLY REMEMBER IT, BUT THERE WAS AN ACCIDENT...
I HAVE CERTAINLY DIED BACK THEN. I STOPPED BEING CONSCIOUS
BUT, THEN I WOKE UP AGAIN TWO YEARS AGO
I WAS SURPRISED. IT WAS ALMOST 15 YEARS AFTER I DIED
WHA—
WHAT'S THAT? ARE YOU A GHOST?
WE HAVE PHYSICAL EXISTENCE, SO IT'S PROBABLY DIFFERENT FROM A GHOST.
...
Stare
ME?

I PASSED AWAY BEFORE I COULD DO ANYTHING MOTHERLY FOR HER.
We're not using our real names by the way
I'LL BE SOMETHING LIKE RIA-CHAN'S MOTHER
IT'S THE SAME FOR ME. JUST LIKE MUGETSU
SO SHE LOST HER MOTHER, TOO.


I GUESS SO. BUT,
SO ARE YOU GUYS ALIVE NOW DUE TO THE POWER OF THE BOX?

RIA'S TIME HAS STOPPED
MAYBE THAT'S BECAUSE WE'RE USING HER LIVING TIME

BUT WE WEREN'T ABLE TO DESTROY IT.
IT'S IMPOSSIBLE FOR US BECAUSE WE EXIST WITH THE BOX
THAT'S WHY, THE BOX MUST BE DESTROYED.
...
DO YOU KNOW... AT LEAST HOW TO DESTROY THE BOX?
EH?
SO YOU HAVEN'T NOTICED.
DON'T WORRY.
SOON, EVERYTHING WILL BE OVER.

BUT, WHY DOES IT HAVE TO "END"?
WE WILL RETURN TO WHERE WE'RE SUPPOSED TO RETURN
RIA, TOO — HAS TO RETURN SO THAT SHE CAN START ALL OVER AGAIN
SHE TOUCHED ME, BUT I DIDN'T FEEL ANYTHING
Smile
...
BECAUSE THAT'S WHAT RIA HAS WISHED FOR.

AINE-CHAN,
AINE-CHAN
I'M SORRY
Drop
Drip
IT'S ALL MY FAULT.
IT'S ALL BECAUSE I THREW AWAY THE BOX...
THE BOX APPEARS BECAUSE I'M AROUND.
IF I'M AROUND, SOMEONE WILL ALWAYS GET HURT.
I LEFT HOME AND TRIED TO STAY AWAY FROM GRANDMA AND EVERYONE ELSE. BUT NOTHING HAS CHANGED.
I HAVE TO DESTROY THE BOX
IT'S ALL BECAUSE OF ME.
IF I DON'T DESTROY IT, I'LL BE LONELY, FOREVER.

IS THIS ME FROM TWO YEARS AGO?
NO,
IT'S NOT, THIS...
THE "ME" THAT I ABANDONED TWO YEARS AGO.
I'M SCARED
I'M REALLY, REALLY SCARED.
DON'T LEAVE ME ALONE
I DON'T WANT TO BE ALONE
THIS IS...

I HAD TO DO SOMETHING IF I WANT TO STAY HERE.
ANYTHING I HAD TO FIND A REASON TO KEEP ON LIVING.
I WAS WEAK, AND I DIDN'T WANT TO SEE HOW WEAK I WAS.
WAS I DESTROYING THE BOX
BECAUSE "IT WAS ALL MY FAULT"?
OR IS IT BECAUSE "I WAS THE ONLY PERSON WHO CAN DO IT"?
I WAS HELPLESSLY SCARED,
I TURNED AWAY FROM MYSELF
THAT WAS SELFISH OF ME.
IT WAS ALL BECAUSE "I WAS SCARED TO BE ALONE"?
THOSE WERE ALL TRUE, BUT THOSE WERE NOT THE ONLY REASONS
YES,
THAT'S RIGHT

TOMORROW,
WE'LL THINK OF HOW TO DESTROY THE BOX TOGETHER.
IF WE WORK TOGETHER, WE'LL DEFINITELY FIND A WAY.
PIA-CHAN,

THEN, WE'LL MAKE THAT AFTER SCHOOL PROMISE?
OK! I'LL BE WAITING.
MIO-KUN...
SORRY...
It's only gonna be a day
OH, SURE I CAN SKIP.
NO, YOU CAN'T SAY THAT
Pop!
!
Mi— MIO-KUN, TOMORROW WHAT ABOUT SCHOOL?

MIO-KUN?
WHO IS HE?
A FRIEND
IT WILL BE FINE, BECAUSE NOW I UNDERSTAND
TELL ME,
WHAT DO YOU WISH FOR?
I'M HAPPY
MIO-KUN, THANK YOU

NOW, I UNDERSTAND
THAT LYING TO MYSELF IS JUST THE SAME AS RUNNING AWAY FROM MY SELF
I...
I WANT TO ATTEND SCHOOL,
AND STUDY,
AND HANG OUT WITH MY FRIENDS... AND,
AND I WANT TO STAY WITH THE PEOPLE THAT I LOVE.

I'M SORRY.
ALL THIS WHILE, I PRETENDED YOU DIDN'T EXIST.
I'M SORRY.
I WANT TO RETURN.
ME TOO...
"THE TRUTH IS"

A BOX THAT GRANTS ONE'S WISHES.
SO THIS BOX IS GRANTING RIA'S WISHES.

LET'S RETURN.

RIA'S WISH...
IS TO DESTROY THE BOX?

SHE JUST DIDN'T REALIZE IT
AND BECAUSE OF THAT, HER WISH WAS NEVER GRANTED.
...
BECAUSE
YOU'VE CHANGED RIA.
FROM IGNORING HER SURROUND-INGS.
THESE TWO GUYS ARE GETTING MORE AND MORE...
BUT, IT WILL FINALLY END
INITIALLY, THE BOX WAS ONLY MEANT TO SHOW ONE HIS DREAMS
I ONLY CREATED IT FOR FUN
I HAD NO IDEA IT WOULD HOLD SUCH A POWER

THAT, AND I STILL CAN'T FIGURE OUT WHY I'M ALIVE AGAIN.
I'M SORRY FOR TELLING YOU THESE IRRESPONSIBLE THINGS.
THEY ARE THERE...
BUT I CAN'T FEEL THEIR EXISTENCE.
WITHOUT SAYING ANYTHING TO RIA-CHAN?
GOING TO JUST DISAP-PEAR LIKE THAT?
ARE YOU...

Awakens
TICK
TOCK
Rustle
Rustle
TICK
TOCK
TICK
Rustle

Rustle
CLATTER
CLATTER
CLATTER
!
ARE YOU CALLING FOR ME?

PUZZLE+

VOL CHAPTER 09

Scanner: littlepinkrose12
Translator: hanchakachan
Proofreader: megmerrai
Editor: Lauren
QCer: littlepinkrose12

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Cube.10 The End And The Beginning

I UNDERSTAND THAT YOU DIDN'T YOU COULDN'T TELL RIA-CHAN ABOUT IT BEFORE,
BUT IF YOU DISAPPEAR ALTOGETHER WITHOUT EVER TELLING HER...
SHE'LL NOTICE IT EVEN IF WE DON'T TELL HER.
!
THAT IS NOT THE ISSUE!

RIA-CHAN IS...
CLICK

UGH!
ガン
SLAM
AH
?
EHH?
TCH!
WAHH! MIO-KUN?
SORRY
I'M SORRY! ARE YOU OK?
I'M OK
RIA-CHAN, HOW ARE YOU FEELING?
!
AH...
UM...
HM?

.I'M SURE
THAT I'LL BE ALL RIGHT NOW...
I... FINALLY UNDER-STAND
I WAS SAD AND SCARED,
I WAS RUNNING AWAY
BUT NOW I UNDERSTAND THAT I CAN'T KEEP THIS GOING ON
THAT I HAVE TO FACE MY FEARS.

DON'T WORRY, WE'LL HEAR YOU OUT AFTER YOU GET BACK
SO GO AND END IT
.....
SO.
SO...
Umm..
.....
OK!
.....!
CLANG
CLANG
CLANG

TAP
TAP
TAP
.....
CAN I
SAY SOME-THING SELFISH?
RIA-CHAN IS A VERY KIND GIRL
BUT THAT'S ALSO WHY SHE'S BLAMING HERSELF
SO WHEN SHE'S FEELING DOWN, PLEASE STAY BY HER SIDE
WE CAN'T
BECAUSE WE'RE NO LONGER ALIVE
BESIDES,
I'M PRETTY SURE SHE FEELS BITTER ABOUT US

BUT WHY?
AREN'T YOU HERE...
BECAUSE RIA-CHAN WISHES FOR YOU TO BE HERE?
?
THE BOX GRANTS HER WISHES. SO ISN'T THAT WHY YOU'RE HERE?
OH, THE BOX WAS SUPPOSED TO SHOW HER, HER DREAMS
Stunned
THEN SHE MUST HAVE WANTED TO SEE YOU BADLY!
THAT'S WHY HER DREAM CAME TRUE!!

WAIT.
NOW THAT YOU'VE MET HER, YOU CAN'T JUST DISAPPEAR WITHOUT SAYING ANYTHING TO HER
I'M GOING TO GO SETTLE EVERYTHING AND I'M COMING BACK WITH RIA-CHAN, SO WAIT HERE
ANYWAY!
Silence
ABOUT AINE-CHAN. LET US TELL YOU ABOUT HER.
THERE'S ONE MORE THING WE NEED TO TELL YOU IT'S ABOUT RIA'S FRIEND...

HUH?
IF...
IF THAT'S TRUE,
THEN I HAVE TO LET RIA-CHAN KNOW AS SOON AS I CAN!
THANK YOU, MIO-KUN
AH
step
step
.....

.....

Phew
GOOD THING NOBODY FOUND IT BEFORE ME
FOUND IT.

I'M SORRY ABOUT DESTROYING YOU OVER AND OVER AGAIN ALL THIS TIME

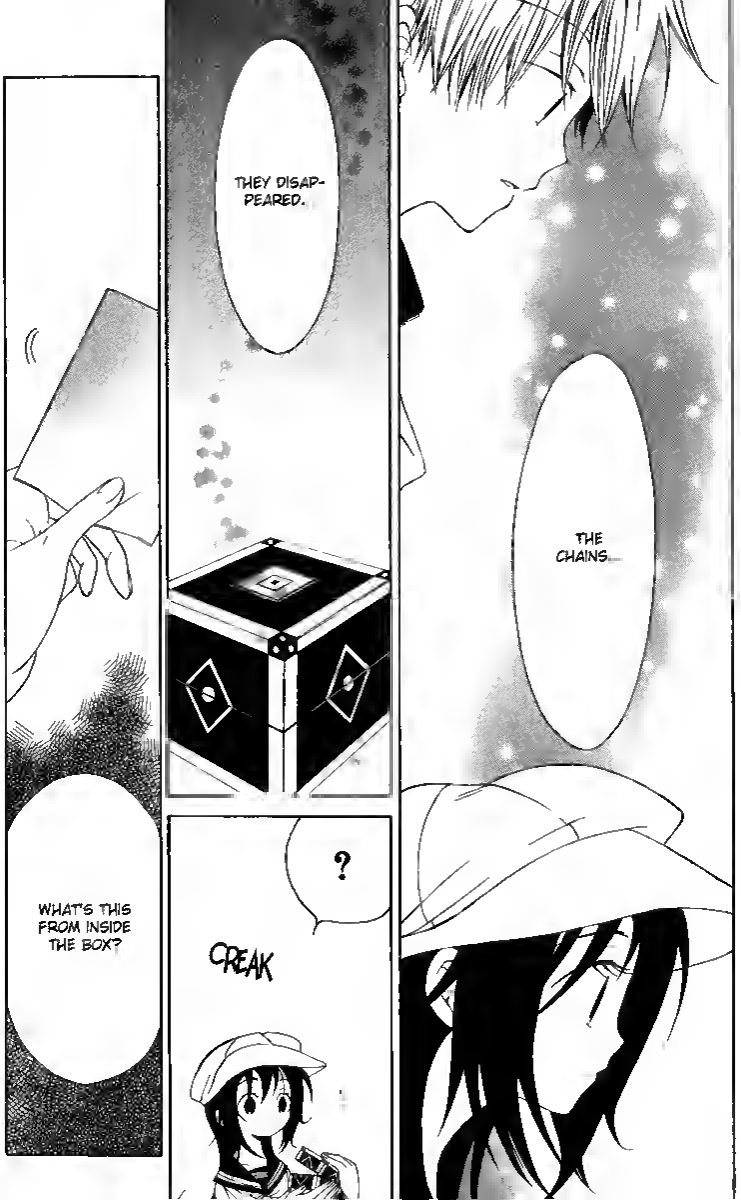
AND

ARE YOU ANGRY AT ME?
SHE'S TALKING TO THE BOX?

I...
KEPT RUNNING AWAY FROM A LOT OF THINGS...
AND BECAUSE OF THAT, I'VE KEPT HURTING OTHERS
I'VE KEPT RUNNING...
AND
I TOOK THE LONG ROUTE,
BUT NOW I REALIZE,

I HAVE A WISH THAT I WANT TO BE GRANTED.

BUT I SHOULDN'T RELY ON YOU TO GRANT IT.
I HAVE TO GRANT IT MYSELF.
IT IS SOME-THING...
THAT I HAVE ALWAYS WISHED FOR.
IT'S A VERY IMPORTANT WISH FOR ME.
AH...


THE CHAINS...
THEY DISAP-PEARED.
WHAT'S THIS FROM INSIDE THE BOX?
?
CREAK

THIS IS...
RIA-CHAN?
AH!
Swoosh
THE SWORD...

YOU KNOW...
JUST NOW, WHEN RIA-CHAN SMILED... THAT WAS THE FIRST TIME I SAW HER SMILE GENUINELY
SHE MUST'VE BEEN PUSHING HERSELF TOO HARD ALL THIS TIME.
.....
I'M SAYING SELFISH THINGS, AIN'T I?
I WAS VERY HAPPY.
WELL, YOU CAN ONLY SAY IT WHILE YOU'RE ALIVE.
Just for now.
HEY!
Shocked
HM...

KIRA?
SO, YOU TOTALLY GOT USED TO CALLING ME WITH THAT NAME
Not that I mind.
RIGHT, PROFESSOR?
Ahh
I'M SO GLAD I WASN'T ALONE

THE SWORD...
VAN-ISHED?
Tak
STAND UP
?!
WHY HAD I FORGOTTEN...?
WHY...?

BACK WHEN I WAS STILL SMALL.
I WAS SHOWN THIS PICTURE ONCE.
RIA-CHAN?
Step
IN THE PICTURE, THERE WAS A YOUNG MAN AND A BEAUTIFUL WOMAN.
THEY DIDN'T LIKE TAKING PICTURES, SO THERE'S ONLY ONE WITH THE TWO OF THEM TOGETHER
WHO ARE THESE PEOPLE?

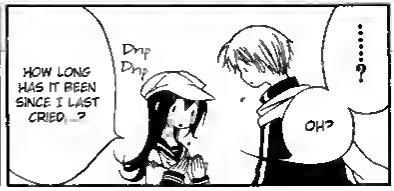
GRANDMA SAID THEY WERE MY MOM AND DAD,
GRANDMA LOOKED SO SAD,
BUT AT THAT TIME, I DIDN'T FULLY UNDERSTAND
SO I THOUGHT I SHOULDN'T ASK HER ABOUT IT.
I DIDN'T REALLY MIND I WASN'T SAD EITHER, BUT...
NO.
NO...
PLEASE DON'T GO
SLAM
Clang
Huff
Huff

Wheeze
Pant
RIA-CHA...
Open

Clang
Clang
Clang
STEP
UM... HAVE YOU SEEN MUGETSU-SAN AND KIRA-SAN?
WHO'S THAT?
CALL ME RUI♡
...RUI-SAN.
What's up?
AH, MANAGER!
THE ONES IN ROOM 203...
HM?
THERE HASN'T BEEN ANYONE STAYING IN THAT APARTMENT...
WE'RE BACK~

Yeah!
RIGHT! HIIRO!
WHAT?
DO YOU REMEMBER THE BOX?
.....?
YOU MEAN THE CARDBOARD BOXES?
YOU NEED TO TIE THEM UP AND THROW THEM WITH THE RECYCLABLE WASTE.
.....
.....
Wine!
RI—
!

.....


HOW LONG HAS IT BEEN SINCE I LAST CRIED...?
Drip Drip
OH?
.....?

FALL
WAH!
?
RI—
Grip

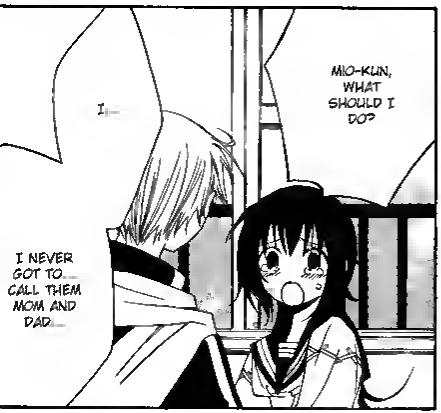
RIA-CHAN?

I'M SORRY
I...
I NEVER NOTICED ANYTHING
.....
I...
I KEPT DOING SO
I KEPT CLOSING MY EYES
I WANTED TO RUN FROM THINGS THAT I HATE
NOW I KNOW.
Ah...

"WHY DID YOU THROW IT AWAY?"
BEEN BY MY SIDE ALL THIS TIME
THAT WAS WHY I WAS UNABLE TO SEE IT
THEY HAD ALWAYS
FEELING LONELY THAT TIME
MAYBE I WAS

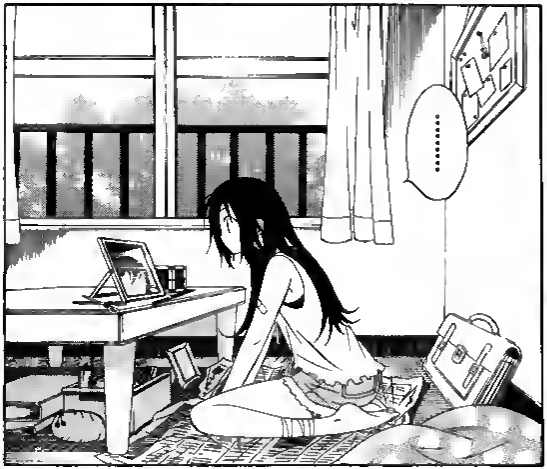
RI—
MAYBE I WAS JUST LONELY
UWA—

Shocked
Wahhhhh
?!


I...
MIO-KUN, WHAT SHOULD I DO?
I NEVER GOT TO... CALL THEM MOM AND DAD...

I JUST WANTED
TO BE ABLE TO MEET THEM
THE TRUTH WAS...
I DIDN'T WANT A BOX.

IT'S FINE
I'M SURE THEY KNOW HOW YOU FEEL
.....
THANK YOU


.....

Squeeze

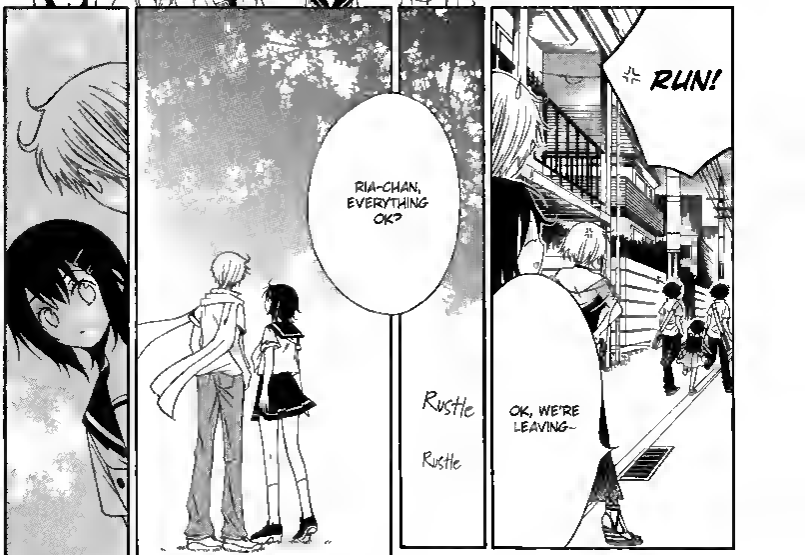
GOOD MORNING, SUZUNA-CHAN.
WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
ONEE-CHAN—
RU—

THEN

?!
UWAHHH!
Pitter Patter
GOOD MORNING. I WANT TO GIVE SOMETHING TO RIA-ONEECHAN.
HMM?
OPEN
I'M...
I'M DOOMED!
Bling!
LEAVE IT TO ME
SUZUNA-CHAN...

PERFECT
HOW DO YOU LIKE THEM?
ER... DID SUZUNA-CHAN MAKE THE UNI-FORM?
Wow
THE SKIRT IS OBVIOUSLY AGAINST THE SCHOOL REGULATIONS
Heh
Oh well Never mind
CLICK
STOP
Her hair is very short
GOOD MORNING
?
MORN-ING
AH, GUREN-KUN

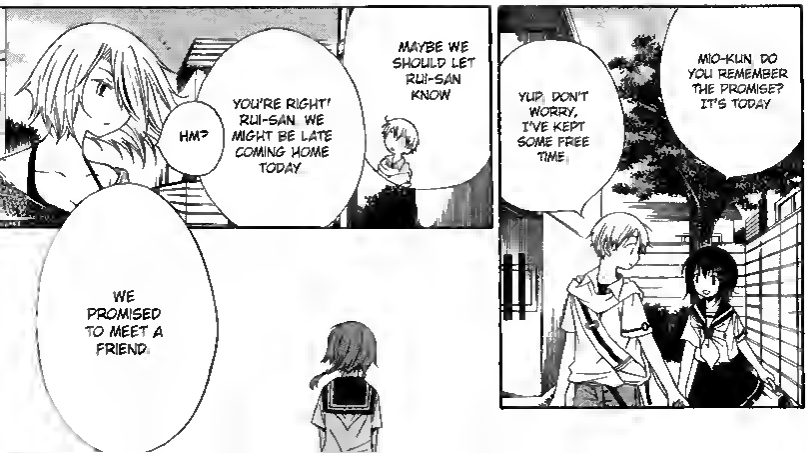
HEY, YOU GUYS
YOU LOOK RELAXED. ARE YOU GOING TO MAKE IT TO SCHOOL ON TIME?
SHORT HAIR LOOKS GOOD ON YOU, TOO
AH THESE TWO...
They look alike
Oh Rii-san Did you cut your hair? You look pretty!
SERIOUS FACE
WE TRIED TO HURRY UP, BUT WE'RE ALREADY LATE!
OUR SCHOOL IS CLOSE BY,
Yup
So were OK

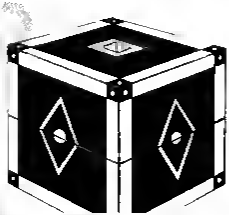

RUN!
OK, WE'RE LEAVING~
RIA-CHAN, EVERYTHING OK?
Rustle
Rustle

IF I DIDN'T THROW AWAY THE BOX...
IF IT DIDN'T FALL INTO AINE-CHAN'S HAND...
I KEPT THINKING ABOUT THIS AGAIN AND AGAIN.
I'VE KEPT THINKING THAT THERE ARE A LOT OF DIFFERENT ROADS I COULD'VE TAKEN
BUT...
NO MATTER WHAT, THERE'S ONLY ONE ROAD THAT I TOOK
ONLY ONE
THAT'S WHY NOW I'M HERE.

WHEN I THINK ABOUT THEM, I FEEL SAD SOMETIMES I CRIED
BUT I WON'T FORGET
EVERYTHING. FOR SURE
THOSE TWO YEARS WERE REAL
EVEN IF NOBODY REMEMBERS, TO ME, THEY EXISTED
YUP.
YOU TWO~ YOU'RE GOING TO BE LATE~
Ah
OK~

LET'S GO, MIO-KUN!


MIO-KUN, DO YOU REMEMBER THE PROMISE? IT'S TODAY
YUP, DON'T WORRY, I'VE KEPT SOME FREE TIME.
MAYBE WE SHOULD LET RUI-SAN KNOW
YOU'RE RIGHT! RUI-SAN WE MIGHT BE LATE COMING HOME TODAY
HM?
WE PROMISED TO MEET A FRIEND.



PUZZLE+ END

Afterword

Thank you for reading this piece of work. There must be parts of this manga where you thought could've been explained better, and parts that you found difficult to read, but whatever it is, this manga is now complete. Other than being my first serial work, this manga is also my debut work. It was my first time drawing a proper scenery using screen tones, and for that, I've caused a lot of inconvenience to many people around me. There were lots of tasks to complete, from story making to drawing the manga itself. I hope I'll be able to apply these invaluable lessons I've learned in my future works. Again, thank you very much.

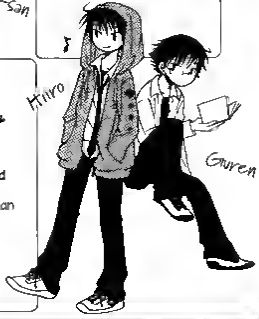
Sugano Manami

- He was the protagonist. I struggled to draw him because I couldn't draw boys properly.
- My editor even said he was annoying.
- I hope I can practice drawing boys.

- She was the heroine. She became a rather peculiar character because she appeared absent-minded yet cheerful at the same time. The truth is, she was a cheerful girl.
- I had to face a lot of difficulties, thanks to her, but I'm glad I managed to pull through to the end. I'm pretty sure she'll keep her hair long again.

- I like drawing small girls. (This might sound misleading...)
- I'll work harder so I can draw both adults and children properly.
- It's a shame that Rui-san didn't appear more in the manga.

- I'm not good at drawing boys (etc)
- I have to admit that I wasn't able to draw smooth movements. I feel sorry for Guren for a lot of things that he had to go through (LOL).
- This is totally out of topic, but I'm a twin, too. (We're girls.)



Afterword

- Both of them are too much of a doting parent, I think. What did I just draw? was the kind of question I asked myself when I drew Kira in her bunny costume. (Well, actually that was Suzuna.) (LOL)

- She is Ria's friend. She didn't die, but was sleeping because her time stopped like Ria's. Her time was needed to sustain the existence of both Mugetsu and Kira, so what happened in the end wasn't that she was revived. She was reawakened - I apologize, for it's difficult to comprehend. It was too complex to explain in the manga, so we just left the details out.

- When I was first told to draw this short serial manga, I was actually surprised. In fact, I was worried as to whether I would be able to draw it properly. Before I knew it, the serialization had already begun, and despite feeling like giving up halfway through the series, I carried on drawing, telling myself to pull through to the very end. There are lots of things that could've been done better, but I'm glad I was able to draw this manga.
- Thus, I thank you from the bottom of my heart for reading this manga. I'll continue to work hard to become better.
- A total of 10 chapters might not seem very long, but the manga was published every other month thus it did feel quite long. I still feel incompetent despite my best efforts, so I would like to devote myself more to drawing manga.
- I will work hard, as I like drawing both pictures and manga. I do think that drawing manga is difficult, nevertheless, I'll do my best.
- "Oh dear, she's so serious!" you might think. I am sorry my afterword is dull! I wish we could meet again at another place. Till then.

Sugano Manami

PUZZLE+

VOL CHAPTER 10

Scanner: littlepinkrose12
Translator: hanchakachan
Proofreader: megmerrai
Editor: Sylvie
QCer: littlepinkrose12

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